

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d), and for confirming that the certified copy of the priority document has been received at the Patent Office in U.S. Application No.: 09/230,734.

Information Disclosure Statement:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for initialing and returning Form PTO/SB/08 A & B filed on July 21, 2003, thus indicating that all of the references listed thereon have been considered.

Drawings:

Applicant hereby requests the Examiner review and approve the drawings filed with the application.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant sincerely thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 9-11 have been allowed, and that although claims 1-8 and 12-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, these claims would be allowable if amended to address the Examiner's concerns.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-14 are all of the claims pending in the present application and currently claims 1-8 and 12-14 stand rejected.

35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph Rejection - Claims 1-8 and 12-14:

Claims 1-8 and 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph as being indefinite. However, as shown in the previous section, Applicant has amended claims 1, 2 and 12 to remove the language which the Examiner asserts is unclear. Applicant now asserts that the claim language is clear and that the claims are allowable.

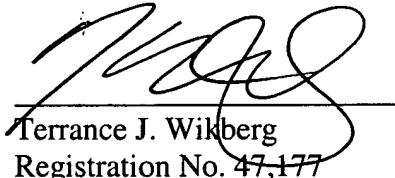
Further, Applicant notes that the above referenced claim amendments have been made to merely clarify the claimed invention and are not intended to narrow the original scope or spirit of the claims in any way.

Conclusion:

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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